

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

December 26, 1959

ADrift FOR FOUR DAYS ON FLOATING ICE

Two Eskimos returned to their homes recently after drifting for four days on a sheet of ice in Arctic waters off Baffin Land.

The two men, father and son, set off with their dog teams to hunt walrus in the Foxe Basin

Search and Rescue Centre at Winnipeg was asked to help.

For three days, in high winds, an aircraft searched 48,000 square miles of the Foxe Basin, often being forced to return to base because of poor visibility. Then,

Wishing You All a Happy Christmas

area in Canada's North-West Territories. They had little food and no water.

Suddenly a storm sprang up. Fierce winds caused the ice on which they were standing to break from the shore and drift away.

When they failed to return home an alarm was raised, and the Royal Canadian Air Force

at last, the pilot spotted the drifting floe with its two tiny specks, and with their position pin-pointed it was soon possible to rescue the two men and hurry them to warmth and shelter.

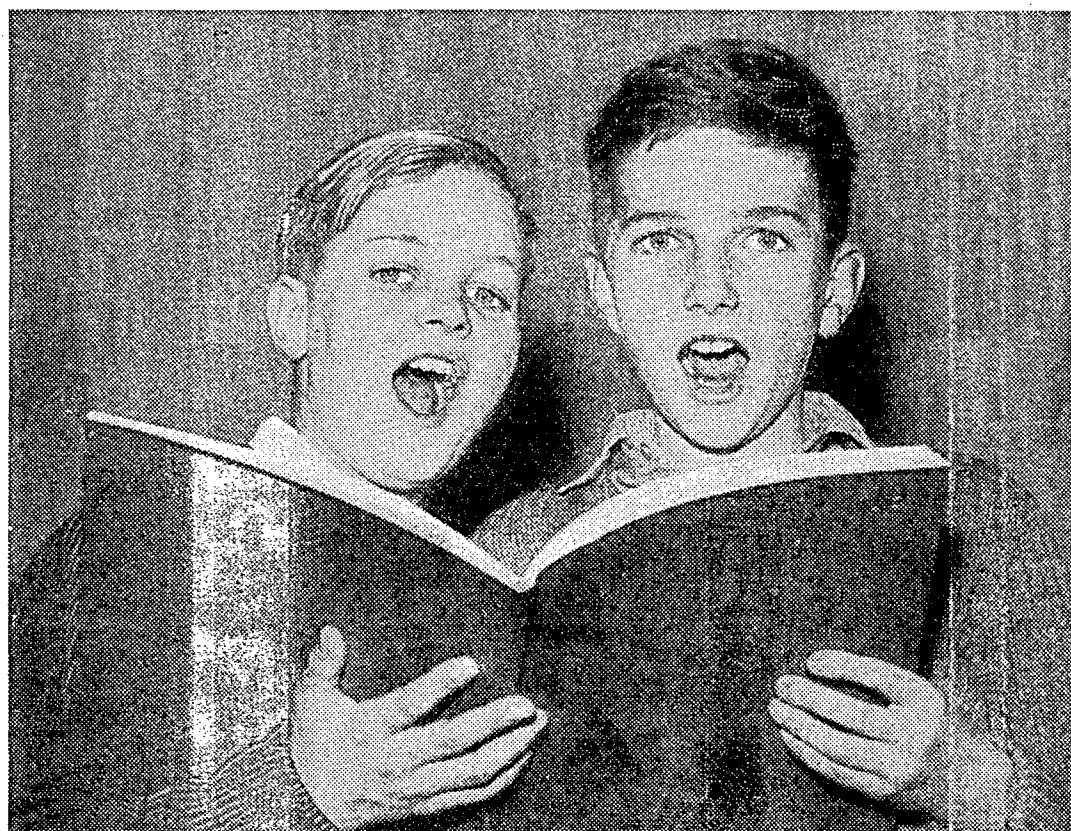
Altogether these Eskimos had spent four days afloat on the sheet of ice and had drifted for more than 200 miles.

Many Happy Returns



Princess Alexandra, who will be 23 on Christmas Day. This photograph of her in a safety helmet was taken while she was visiting the Snowy Mountains irrigation scheme during her Australian tour. Australia, said the Princess in one of her speeches, gave her "the time of her life." Australians, like ourselves, will be wishing her Many Happy Returns—for an added reason.

Christmas Eve Voices



Christopher Nicholls (right) in harmony with his understudy, Peter Rhodes

How better could a chorister crown his year than by winning the shepherd boy rôle in "Amahl and the Night Visitors"? As the chosen Amahl for the BBC Television play on Christmas Eve, Christopher Nicholls (12) of Rayleigh, Essex, may well sing with joy. But so, too, may 13-year-old Peter Rhodes of Staveley, Derbyshire. As runner-up and

understudy, he has had to play shadow to Amahl himself, rehearsing with him day after day, always ready to step in if Number One's voice breaks, or he catches flu or misses his train. And this year, the fourth time the Amahl play has been televised, the runner-up is promised a screen part, no matter what happens, as one of the crowd.

WHEN I dropped in at rehearsal the other afternoon, Peter had just finished singing and stumping around with his crutch, and was handing over to Christopher.

Why the crutch? Because Amahl in Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas story is a crippled shepherd boy. He and his widowed mother live in a poor hut on the road to Bethlehem.

One night three kings call for shelter while in search of a Star. Amahl's mother, yearning to help her crippled son, is tempted to steal from their treasure chest. When she is found out, Amahl is so distressed that he offers as recompense his only precious possession—his crutch. A miracle happens, and he can walk again.

To play the part well is not easy. It calls not only for a trained voice for the beautiful but difficult music, but quick sympathy and real acting skill. And this is not all.

"Amahl must also try to look half-starved," Producer Christian Simpson told me, with a smile.

It was that, if anything, that

turned the scale in Christopher's favour. Slim as a wand, only 4 foot 7 inches tall, he slips into the shepherd's coarse cloak like a kitten into a blanket.

Peter, on the other hand, is on the chubby side. It says much for his talent that, despite this rather jolly handicap, he came second out of the 70 boys auditioned.

Both Amahls were watched by their mothers at rehearsal.

"I know Christopher looks thin," admitted Mrs. Nicholls. "But he's got a mighty appetite!"

"Peter eats what he likes and doesn't worry," put in Mrs. Rhodes. "And it's not true he gave up sweets to slim for the part!"

Frequent prizewinners

Both boys are frequent prizewinners at festivals. Christopher, a soloist in Rayleigh Parish Church choir, recently took first prize at Southend. Peter carried off the Cup at Matlock the other day.

Rehearsing for Amahl has turned their lives upside down.

"And ours, too!" echo the mothers. The musical scores were posted to them a month ago, and for a week both boys practised over the piano at home. Being trained sight readers, they had thoroughly learned their parts by the time BBC rehearsals began a week later.

Christopher wonders whether he is lucky to be living within easy reach of Lime Grove.

"I'm a bit tired when I get back at night," he told me. "And then having to tackle home lessons!" (He has had special leave from Rayleigh Swayne Grammar School.)

Peter, who goes to Middle Croft School, Chesterfield, stays with his mother at an hotel. And no missing lessons for him! He brought his books to London and has been doing homework in the studios.

Both build railways

Watching the crippled lad dragging himself around the shepherd's hut, you would have difficulty imagining Christopher at his favourite hobby—making overhead railways.

"I've strung up a smashing rope railway from the house to a tree at the end of the garden," he said. "At night the car is illuminated." He makes soap-box cars, too. Every year he and his friends hold a competition for elegance, like the Monte Carlo rally.

Peter, too, is transport-minded, but his railway is indoors. "It's 00 gauge, and I've been collecting rails and rolling stock for seven years," he told me. "Must be worth £100 by now." He is also a keen photographer and does all his own processing.

"I do woodwork," Christopher broke in. "Just made a coffee table."

"I bet it wobbles," said Peter, with a grin. ERNEST THOMSON

QUESTION TIME

By the C N Parliamentary Correspondent

Once again our correspondent sets you a quiz based on parliamentary and world affairs. See how many of the questions you can answer correctly without help from any other members of the family. If you get them all right you deserve a pat on the back.

1. Which great Western republic elects or re-elects a President every Leap Year?
2. How many M.P.s were elected to Britain's new Parliament at the General Election last October and how long are they entitled to serve?
3. What is meant by the initials (a) NATO; (b) EEC; (c) OEEC; (d) UNO?
4. Name the leaders of our Conservative, Labour, and Liberal parties.
5. Who are the Prime Ministers or Heads of Government of (a) Britain; (b) Russia; (c) Western Germany; (d) Italy; (e) the United States?
6. How much time is allowed in the House of Commons for questions to Ministers at the start of a day's business?
7. Which two of these countries are republican members of the British Commonwealth: Canada, Ghana, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, South Africa?
8. The six countries which have formed a common market are sometimes called The Six, the Messina Powers (because they signed their treaty at Messina) or Little Europe. What is their official name?
9. Britain's largest colony will become independent next October. Name, please?

NOW CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

1. The United States; polling in the next Presidential election takes place in November, 1960.
2. 630 M.P.s; five years.
3. (a) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; (b) European Economic Community; (c) Organisation for European Economic Co-operation; (d) United Nations Organisation.
4. Mr. Harold Macmillan; Mr. Hugh Gaitskell; Mr. Joseph Grimond.
5. (a) Mr. Harold Macmillan; (b) Mr. Nikita Krushchev; (c) Dr. Konrad Adenauer; (d) Signor Antonio Segni; (e) President Eisenhower, who is both Head of State and Head of Government.
6. Approximately one hour.
7. India and Pakistan. They acknowledge the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth but not as their sovereign; the rest acknowledge the Queen as their Sovereign.
8. European Economic Community. See Question No. 3.
9. Nigeria, West Africa.

Commonwealth showpiece

The new Commonwealth Institute building in London is to have 25 tons of copper in its roof as a gift by the Northern Rhodesia Chamber of Mines. All the aluminium needed (up to 20 tons) has been promised by Aluminium Limited of Canada, and the 40 to 50 tons of insulating

materials for the roof and walls will be presented by the Transvaal Ore Company.

Other gifts include floor timber from British Guiana and Tanganyika.

The new centre will be a real Commonwealth showpiece.

All in the name of Nuffield

Over a million pounds was given to good causes by the Nuffield Foundation during the year which ended in March 1959. And what good causes they were—both at home and abroad!

At home, generous sums were devoted to universities and technical colleges for special studies that will help mankind. Grants were also made to hospitals and other medical institutions for research in rheumatism, the difficulties of old people, and to help children.

A special grant has been made to the London Children's Theatre Company, which not only organises performances but helps to show young people how to work happily together.

New Towns youngsters

The youngsters of the New Towns have not been forgotten and a grant was made to provide decent coffee bars and dance floors in these newly-developed communities. In this way young folk who do not fit in with youth clubs can have somewhere to go in the evenings. The committee responsible includes Tommy Steele, Mr. Billy Butlin of holiday camp fame, and Stirling Moss.

A quarter of the total Nuffield sum went to Commonwealth countries especially Africa. For example, £5000 was given to help develop a girls' school farm in Uganda, where the pupils grow their own crops and have a small herd of cattle. A £10,000 grant was made to help organise hunting by Kenya tribesmen, so that they can obtain their traditional food supply without exterminating the wild animals in their area.

All these are mere samples of the great Nuffield Trust's good work. Since it began its bountiful career in 1943 it has made grants of nearly £9,000,000. Millions of people have good cause to bless the name of Nuffield.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Princess Anne will be a bridesmaid next month at the marriage of Lady Pamela Mountbatten and Mr. David Hicks at Romsey Abbey, Hampshire.

HIGHEST YET

An American jet plane, flying over California, has set up a new height record of 98,560 feet—nearly 19 miles.

TAKING A WHALE'S PULSE

American scientists who examined a big whale stranded on the New England coast found that its pulse rate was 25; the human rate is 72.

France's new "heavy" franc, worth 100 of the present ones, will be introduced on January 1. One franc and five franc coins will be worth about 1s. 4d. and 6s. 8d. Centime coins will be issued later in the year.

A German device for catching fish by suction is claimed to be capable of sucking 12 tons of fish into a boat in eight minutes, as many as an average trawler could catch in a day.

MUSIC WHILE YOU WATCH

Music is provided for spectators on a public observation platform at a building site in London's Haymarket.

THEY SAY . . .

I WONDER whether we have made such a success of this planet that we ought to go messing about with other planets.

Lord Morrison of Lambeth

WHEN I go home after a long day at the House of Commons and my Lakeland terrier greets me with a wag of the tail, I feel a much better man.

Mr. Frederick Peart, M.P.

New dresses for little ladies



The two little girls in this picture are Vivienne Ford of Kingston-on-Thames (left) and Valerie Ager of Putney; and with them is Mr. Saunders of the television programme called "Send for Saunders."

The reason they look so pleased is that Mr. Saunders had just presented each of them with a new Top Model dress which they had

won in a television contest. Competitors had to write a letter saying why they would specially like to have one of the dresses shown on television. Over 14,000 girls entered and 50 of them got their wish.

Valerie, who is blind and wrote her letter in Braille, chose her dress because she particularly liked the description of it.

60 MILES OF OIL PIPE-LINE IN SOUTH WALES

An oil pipe-line 62 miles long now runs uphill and down dale across South Wales from Angle Bay, near Pembroke, to the B-P Company's refinery at Llandarcy. The longest in Britain, it crosses 100 roads, nine rivers, 28 streams, and 12 railway lines. The work of laying the pipe has kept 600 men busy for the past 14 months.

When the B-P Company's new deep-water terminal on Milford Haven is completed five million tons of crude oil will surge through the pipe every year.

Great chance for a refugee

Former boys and girls of Frensham Heights School at Farnham have decided to contribute to World Refugee Year in a special way. They are providing a fund that will enable a child from a refugee camp in Germany to be kept and educated for seven years at their old school, a co-educational boarding school in a lovely part of Surrey.

Arrangements will be made in due course for the child to spend the holidays at the home of a school friend of the same age.



OUR HOMELAND

Wintry scene in a Buckinghamshire wood

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Union Jack on a U.S. flag

Now that Hawaii has become one of the United States, the Stars and Stripes is to have an extra star, fifty in all, and this, of course, will be her national flag. But Hawaii will still keep her old flag for State occasions. This State flag is unique in showing the Union Jack, and the story behind it is an interesting one.

In 1794 a British naval captain named George Vancouver, who had sailed with Captain Cook, entered into an agreement with Kamehameha I, the greatest of all Hawaiian kings. Hawaii, the largest island, which gives its name

to the whole group, was to come under the protection of Great Britain.

Ships of the various seafaring nations had begun to call at the islands and there had been some unhappy incidents. Captain Cook himself had been murdered there only 15 years before. The king therefore wanted to gain the support of the British. Captain Vancouver made the agreement on his own authority and it was never ratified by the British Government. But a tradition of British influence was established.

When hostilities developed between Britain and the United States, culminating in the War of 1812, America suggested to the king that he should have a flag of his own.

At the king's request, a new flag was designed by George Beckley, an English captain then living in Hawaii. He retained the Union Jack in the top left-hand corner and used the red, white, and blue of the American flag in the form of eight stripes, thus representing the two nations with the largest trading interest in the Hawaiian islands at the time.

This blending of British and American emblems which was the national flag of Hawaii until her recent entry into the Union, has now become the State flag.

FOR READING AT THE DENTIST'S

A monthly newspaper instead of the traditional parish magazine—that is the bold step to be taken next January at the parish church of Bognor Regis, Sussex.

"What we are after," says the Vicar, "is a publication which people will pick up and read with interest while waiting for a haircut or a session with the dentist."

The newspaper, which will be called The Spire, will contain six pages of news likely to interest a wide public and two other pages devoted to local news.

GARDENING DANGEROUSLY

Mr. Leslie White, of Felixstowe, is keen on his garden but it yields some strange produce from time to time.

He has dug up Service cap badges, Army boots, kitbags, a pistol and live hand grenades. One of the latter turned up in his rockery and a bomb disposal

squad had quickly to be sent for.

Mr. White says: "My garden is a kind of 'lucky dip'—I never know what I shall be digging up next. The police have told me that my house stands on land used by the military and have offered to have the garden swept with a mine detector."

NO LIONS AT THE CIRCUS

Sweden will be off the lion-tamer's route next year. A law coming into force there on January 1 forbids the showing of wild beasts at public performances in circuses and variety theatres. Domesticated animals, however, are not subject to the law; so horses, dogs, and cats may appear. Elephants, monkeys, and the ever popular sea-lions will also be able to perform; and the conjurer is not deprived of his pigeons.

Circus people are reported to be little concerned about the restrictions, as wild animal acts seem to have been less favoured by the Swedish public in recent years.

Making sure of a Happy Christmas



This group of girls who have formed their own Social Service club at a school in Northwich, Cheshire, will be doing their best to see that old people and needy children in the district have a happy Christmas like everybody else.

There are 30 members, whose ages range from 13 to 17, and

they have been busy collecting toys, books, and clothes during their leisure hours and helping the town Council of Social Service to distribute these for Christmas.

Recently, too, they went to one of the town's 16 Old Friends' Clubs to help organise a Christmas party. They had a hand in preparing the food, serving it,

washing up afterwards, and then providing entertainment with the singing of carols. Each girl also took two small home-made gifts, such as scarves, face-towels, and handkerchiefs, as presents for the old people.

In fact, the girls have helped with washing up duties and entertainment at this same club during the past 12 months, and last Christmas they were responsible for collecting and repairing toys and books for 90 children who otherwise would have had very little or perhaps nothing at all in their stockings.

Their headmistress says: "The work is entirely voluntary and does not interfere with the school curriculum. The girls manage quite admirably without staff help."

The secretary of the local Council of Social Service added: "We welcome the lead these young people are giving and hope that this link between the young and old will continue to grow."



CLOSE FRIENDS IN COLD WEATHER

Winter weather makes the birds hungry and friendly, and they find plenty to eat from many good friends like these young visitors to London—at Regent's Park (left) and in Trafalgar Square



HOW THE ROCKETS WORK

Rockets are always hurtling into the news and a book which gives all the basic facts about them is always useful to have at hand. Such a book is Jet Propulsion and Rocket Power by David Le Roi (Wheaton, 10s. 6d.).

Told in a simple way which the non-scientific reader can easily understand, it is well illustrated with many interesting photographs and with diagrams which are clearly drawn and explained.

Two companion books by the same author are All About Nuclear Power; and Radar, Radio and Television, both at the same reasonable price.

Airmen toymakers

Sparetime toy-making for refugee children has won a trophy for airmen of the R.A.F. station at Halton, Bucks. Their toys, made of surplus wood from the station workshops, included a doll's house with 36 tiny chairs, boxes of bricks, and animals on wheels.

Their trophy, a silver cup presented by an organisation which helps refugee children, was won in competition with units of all three Services.

A second silver cup, for the women's Services, was won by airwomen for their soft toys, which included lambs, penguins, squirrels, elephants, teddy bears, and giant pandas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION AND RADIO

Like Christmas trees, the transmitting aerials all over Britain are stacked with good things this week in sound and vision (writes Ernest Thomson). Hour by hour from Christmas Eve onwards, we have

only to twiddle our television and radio receiver knobs and it is like shaking the branches to bring down a shower of presents. What a jumble that could cause! The best rule, of course, is to

shake one branch at a time, and pick the right one. So here is a guide to help you choose from the clustered offerings of both BBC and ITV, not forgetting quite a lot of 'seasonable fare on sound radio.

BBC Television

LET us begin with BBC Television and Eamonn Andrews in Christmas Crackerjack on Christmas Eve. The "regulars" will be joined by Lenny the Lion and Terry Hall, along with that clever magic act, Jerry Bergmann and Mimi.

Later, from the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, comes a programme of carols with a welcome from the Dean.



Judith Chalmers will be introducing the BBC Television programmes on Boxing Night

In The Gentle Flame, a musical playlet based on a Hans Andersen tale, Julie Andrews plays Trissa, a little girl who sees a gay party reflected on the wall whenever she strikes a match. She knows her match-box will soon be empty, but enjoys the fun while it lasts. The singers are from the Brompton Oratory Boys' Choir.

Later in the evening try not to miss Amahl and the Night Visitors, Gian-Carlo Menotti's Nativity opera about a crippled

shepherd boy. You can read more about it on page 1. Besides Christopher Nicholls as Amahl, there are John Kentish, Hervey Alan, and Forbes Robinson as the Three Kings, and Elsie Morrison as Amahl's mother.

Viewers staying up late can see the famous Vienna Boys' Choir in Midnight Mass from Eisenstadt, Austria.

On Christmas morning we can enjoy the sight of children of many nations clustering round Christmas trees in the Alps and the Sussex Downs. Thanks to Eurovision, we can join both gatherings—at the International Pestalozzi Children's villages at Trogen, Switzerland, and Sedlescombe, Sussex.

Chipperfield's Circus on Christmas afternoon is now a BBC Television tradition. Afterwards, instead of the usual Junior TV, all members of the family will be catered for with A Kiss For Cinderella. This charming play by J. M. Barrie, author of Peter Pan, tells of a young charwoman who falls asleep in a snow-covered street, dreams she is at a magnificent ball, and marries the young man of her dreams. Jeannie Carson appears as Cinderella.

Harry Belafonte, the celebrated American singer, is now a Christmas "regular" on the BBC channel. For Christmas Night he has recorded Songs of Many Lands. With him will be his great friend, guitarist Millard Thomas, whom he first met while struggling to make a living singing folk songs. Their encounter was the beginning of the Belafonte success story.

Boxing Day Junior TV sees

The Queen's broadcast

THE Queen has recorded a brief message to the Commonwealth this year. It will be heard in the Home Service and BBC Television transmission (sound only) at 9 o'clock on Christmas morning.

The BBC will repeat the message in the One O'Clock News and ITV will relay it (sound only) at 3 o'clock on Christmas afternoon.

The Three Princes, Rex Tucker's spectacular version of an Arabian Nights story produced by Shaun Sutton. Author and producer have invented some sensational camera tricks to transform the Cat into a Prince and back to a Cat again. The cast includes those well-known favourites, Ann Sears,



Frankie Howerd dressed for the part of Mother Goose

Barry Letts, and Paul Whitsun-Jones.

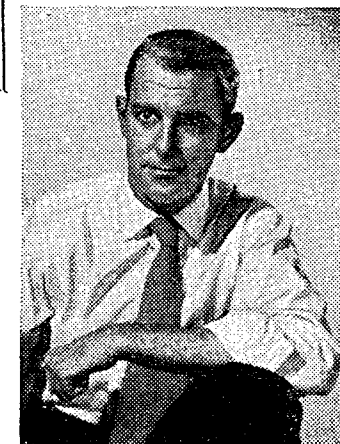
Frankie Howerd means to show us on Boxing Night that the good old Mother Goose pantomime on a theatre stage can stand up to anything they do on ice. This traditional panto was recently recorded before an audience of 1500 at the Wimbledon Theatre. Producer Richard Afton is confident it will be enjoyed by all members of the family.

Frankie Howerd is Mother Goose, the first time he has played a panto dame, and the production is so huge that the Television Toppers have to change their costumes ten times. The Dagenham Girl Pipers and the Twelve Peggy O'Farrell Juveniles also turn up in support of Henry Cranly as the Goose, Joe Church as Johnny, and well-known characters like the Brokers' Men, Fairy, Demon and King Frog.

Independent TV

THE Christmas Eve warm-up on ITV is a little on the cold side—a Granada children's film from Canada about Yuletide on a snow-covered Saskatchewan farm with two children looking for a white pony of their very own.

For the glow of Christmas lights we must wait until 6.45, when Associated-Rediffusion cameras go



Tony Bateman

to Trafalgar Square, London, for carol singing round the famous Christmas tree presented by the people of Norway.

Christmas morning on ITV brings viewers a repeat of the Nativity programme which was seen in Schools Television a fortnight ago. With a Bible narration by actor Robert Harris, the story of Christ's birth is unfolded in carols and mime by a choir in St. Martin-in-the-Fields and mem-

bers of the Old Vic Theatre School.

Three big items stand out on Christmas evening. First, an Educating Archie Christmas Party for children, followed at six o'clock by Once Upon a Christmas, with Mavis Trail and Tony Bateman in a "musical Christmas card."

This should get us in trim for Hughie Green's Christmas Party, a huge affair with enough stars to pack a cavalcade of pantechinons. Among them will be Jill Brown of Emergency Ward 10, Winifred Atwell, Macdonald Hobley, and Joan Rhodes, the girl who tears telephone directories in half.

Boxing Day takes viewers to a Christmas Ice Gala at the Queen's Club, London, for one of ATV's Let's Go expeditions.

In the evening Tommy Steele tops the bill in a Christmas Satur-



Tommy Steele

day Spectacular with the Show Biz XI team and stars like Sid Millward and the Nit Wits, Morecambe and Wise, Shirley Sands, and the Lana Sisters.

SOUND RADIO

CHILDREN'S HOUR helps to kindle the Christmas spirit in sound radio on Christmas Eve with Overseas Postbag, the annual round-up of recorded messages to young people in Britain from children in many parts of the world.

Christmas Scrapbook is the Home Service highlight that evening. Written by Leslie Baily, it will tell the story of BBC Christmas programmes going right back to the days of 2 LO in 1922, when broadcasting started, and the London studio was on the top floor of Marconi House in the Strand. The pages will be turned by Freddie Grisewood.

After the Queen's Message on Christmas morning, listeners will hear the bells of churches in towns and villages in many parts of Britain, followed by the recorded chimes of the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

Bob Monkhouse plays Aladdin in a Light Programme version of

the panto on Christmas afternoon, with Ronald Shiner as Widow Twankey, Ian Wallace as the Emperor, and Alan Wheatley as Abanazar.

Then comes Wilfred Pickles' annual hospital party, this time at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore, Middlesex. This will be Wilfred and Mabel's 21st party; they have not had Christmas dinner at home since 1938.

The annual Commonwealth radio feature, which we usually hear before the Queen's broadcast on Christmas afternoon, is presented this year for the first time by the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

With the title The Young Commonwealth, it will go out in the Home Service between 7 and 7.45 in the evening. Wilfrid Thomas is the narrator for this link-up of old and new members of the family of nations.



Julie Andrews and some of the Brompton Oratory Boys' Choir as they will be seen in The Gentle Flame, a musical playlet to be televised on Christmas Eve.

The Children's Newspaper, December 26, 1959

If the Goat Star were as near as our Sun we would have . . .

DAYS WHICH LAST FOR SEVERAL WEEKS

CAPELLA, the "Goat Star," and the stars representing the "Kids," are now almost overhead between 8 and 10 o'clock. Facing south, the observer will readily recognise them with the aid of the star-map.

Capella is the chief star of the ancient constellation of Auriga, and has always represented that most precious possession of ancient peoples, a nanny goat.

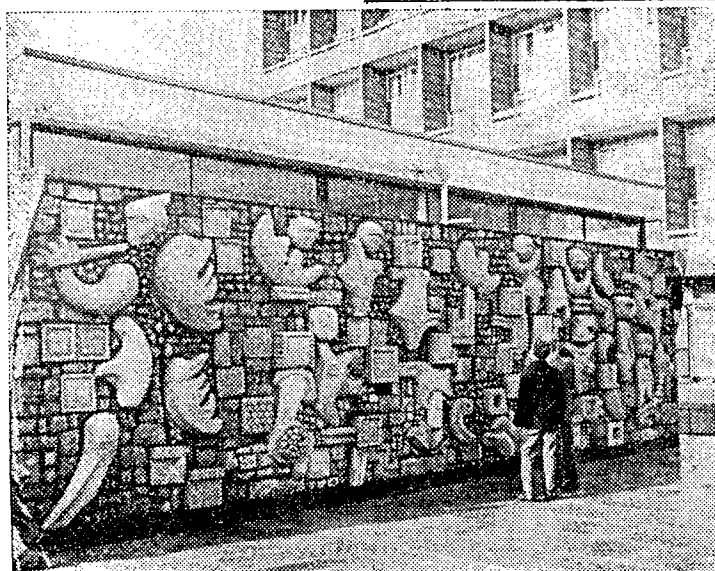
Seen from Britain, Capella never sets. During mid-summer it may be seen twinkling low down near the northern horizon. As the winter evenings progress toward the spring Capella and its triangle of stars representing the Kids will be seen to veer round toward the north-west.

The Goat Star is actually composed of two magnificent suns which are very similar to our Sun in character and surface temperature, but are very much bigger. One of them is about four times heavier than our Sun and the other over $3\frac{1}{2}$ times heavier. Together they radiate about 142 times more light and heat than does our Sun.

These two suns form the centre of a vast solar-system very much larger than ours, and light it up with a yellowish light very similar to that of our Sun. Separated by an average distance of 79 million miles, they revolve round a common centre of gravity in 104 days.

Picture on the wall

This strange mural has been placed on the outer wall of the tenants' clubroom at an L.C.C. estate in Camberwell. It is called The Pied Piper of Hamelin.



LOOKING AT THE SKY

If these two suns of Capella were in the sky in place of our Sun they would appear approximately as far apart as Venus and Mercury. They would not always be seen together in the Heavens and one or other of them would frequently deprive our Earth of its dark nights, and we would have continuous day for several weeks at a time.

The enormous distance of Capella (about 2,990,000 times farther than that of our Sun) previously made it difficult to obtain details of the star, but much has since been learnt through the wonderful interferometer at Mount Wilson Observatory.

Composed of two suns

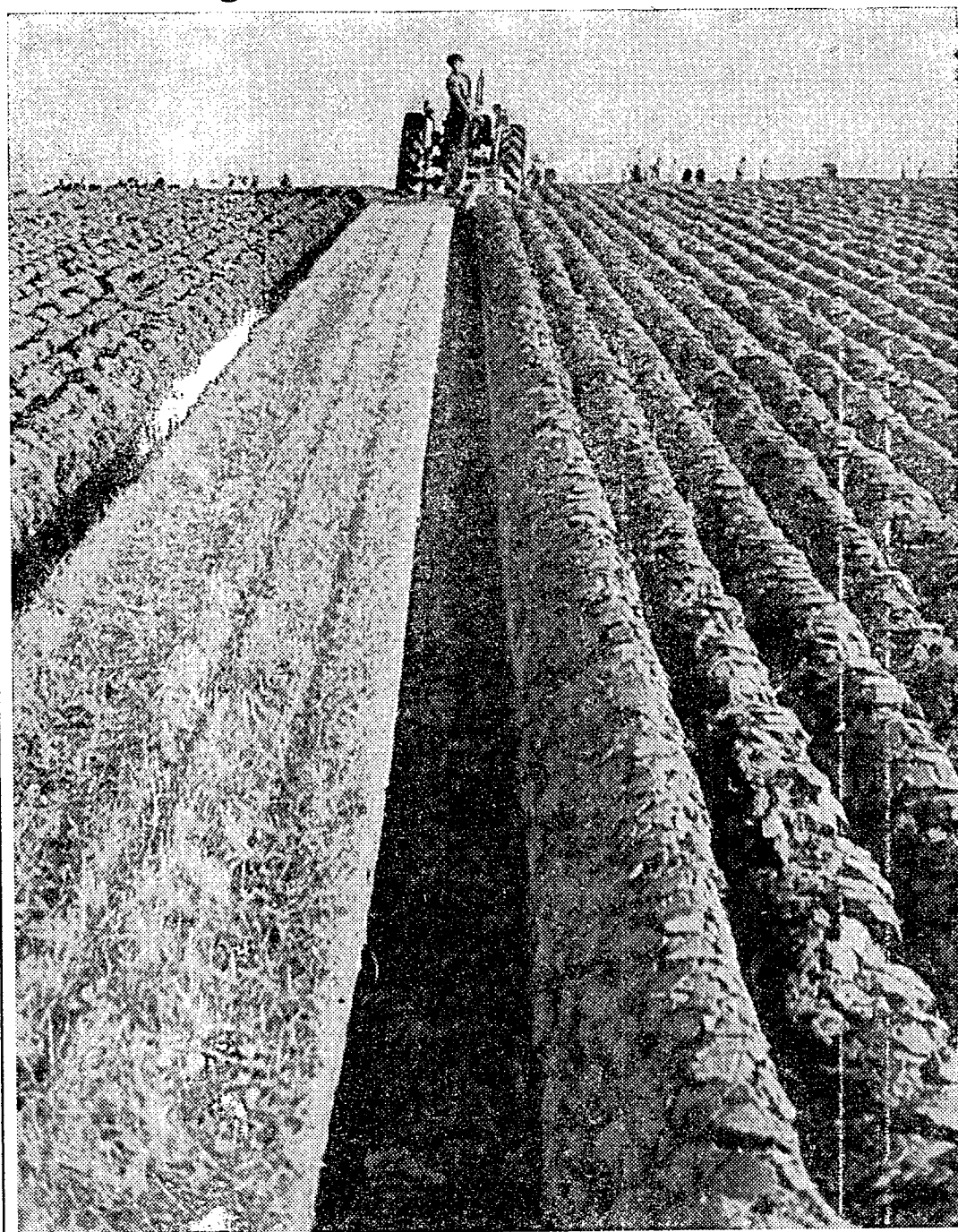
It had long before been noted that, through powerful telescopes, Capella periodically appeared as an oval or elongated star-disc. The interferometer revealed that this was due to Capella being composed of two suns.

In addition it has been found that Capella represents a vast solar system, and that at the immense distance of 1,069,500 million miles from the great central suns are two radiant planetary bodies speeding in the same direction as Capella, but also going round each other like a great planet and satellite. They appear to be "flaming worlds" in the making.

Of the three stars which represent the Kids, all are very much farther away than Capella, which is at a distance of about 46 light-years. Eta is 233 light-years distant, Zeta about 1000 and Epsilon about 1600 light-years distant. This colossal sun blazes up at irregular intervals from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 magnitude; but the intervals are between 14 and 27 years.

G. F. M.

Is my furrow straight?



Next summer's crop needs a good furrow to begin with. This photograph, one of the most striking of the year, shows a competitor at a ploughing match turning round to see if he has cut a dead straight line.

BOY WHO FOUND £100

It is not every day that a 14-year-old boy picks up £100 in £1 notes on his way home from school. But that is just what William Springfield of Norwich did.

Finding the notes lying in the gutter he hurried with them to the police station. Now he has had a letter from the Chief Constable of Norwich, commending his honesty. He has also received £5 reward from the owner of the money.

BOY GIVEN A FARM FOR HIS BIRTHDAY

Two young South Africans recently received almost fairy-story birthday presents from their parents.

Andre Venter, the 14-year-old son of a Standerton farmer, was given a farm of approximately

1100 acres, worth £20,000, and all the equipment necessary to run it. Farming has been Andre's sole interest in life since he could talk, and he learned to drive a tractor when he was five years old. His father, who owns seven other farms in the district, will look after the present until Andre leaves school in a few years' time.

The other fortunate birthday boy is 18-year-old Johan Mader of Pretoria. He was given a luxury hotel and a new motor-car, Johan knows the hotel business from top to bottom, and will take over the hotel next year when his parents go on a world cruise.

Last year, his brother Evert received an £800 electric organ for his 15th birthday.

Army men become schoolmasters

Some of the new form masters arriving at schools next year will be men with half a lifetime of adventure already behind them. Many of these men are ex-officers of the three Services, aged from 35 to 55, and a number of them are taking a one-year course at St. Luke's College, Exeter, where 500 young students also train as teachers.

Besides ex-officers there are

businessmen, civil servants, and even a former inspector of police, at St. Luke's. They are successful men who now feel that teaching is the kind of work they want to do more than any other.

The Principal of St. Luke's says the older men are excellent students and will make first-class teachers. They should certainly have plenty of experience to draw on as a background to lessons.

A BOOK IN BREECHES THEY CALLED HIM

Thomas Babington Macaulay, who died on December 28 just a hundred years ago, wrote English history in such a vivid way that his books sold almost as well as popular novels.

BORN on October 25, 1800, Thomas Macaulay grew into a boy whose face was always buried in books, that is, when he was not running about near his home on Clapham Common, then on the outskirts of London. The result of all this reading was that his conversation, even as a little boy, was often quite surprising. For instance, to a lady who expressed sympathy after some hot coffee had been spilled over him, he replied: "Thank you, madam, the agony is abated." He was only four at the time!

At the age of seven he solemnly wrote what he called "A Compendium of Universal History from the Creation to Modern Times." But he had his weak spot. "I abominate mathematics," he confessed, adding that algebra so puzzled him that it gave him "the horrors."

After a brilliant career at Cambridge—where he would stay awake until the dawn talking on every topic imaginable, and then eat turkey and "mountains of potatoes"—he became a contri-

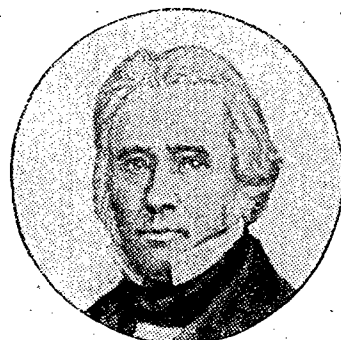
butor to the Edinburgh Review. His historical essays, full of striking word pictures, were a sensation.

Young Macaulay was welcomed to parties and dinners everywhere, people being fascinated by his conversation and his astonishing memory. He seemed to know everything—except algebra, of course!

"Mr. Babington Macaulay is a book in breeches," marvelled one listener.

With his wonderful gift for talking so eloquently, he entered Parliament and soon made a great reputation. To his adored younger sisters Hannah and Margaret he wrote about his triumphs there in carefree verse.

His father, a London merchant, meanwhile had devoted so much of his time to the cause of fighting slavery that he failed in business. Tom Macaulay badly needed money to support the family. So when his brilliant Parliamentary career resulted in his being offered a well-paid post in India, he seized his chance. In 1834 he



sailed for Calcutta, and there, helping to spread the ideas of the Western World, he compiled a masterly Criminal Code establishing law and order.

His colleagues wanted to give dry-as-dust text books to the Indians learning English. "Nonsense," retorted Macaulay, "I would prefer to start them off with simple stories like Jack the Giant-Killer!"

Tremendous worker

He always got through a tremendous amount of work, rising at five in the morning to start, and on top of his official duties writing most of his famous *Lays of Ancient Rome*.

After nearly four years in India he pined for home, and returned to devote himself to literature. His renowned Essays appeared in book form, together with his stirring "Lays" and then he concentrated on his finest task, his celebrated History of England from the reign of James II onwards.

He was determined to "produce something which shall supersede the latest fashionable novel," and he succeeded magnificently. A modern writer has well compared reading Macaulay's History to "stepping into a powerful car which rushes you along."

After the first volume had been published, in 1848, the whole country breathlessly awaited the second, and then the third. This was history all could understand and enjoy.

Gorgeous waistcoats

Widely famous now, Macaulay was made a peer, taking the title of Lord Macaulay of Rothley, after his birthplace near Leicester.

He was a short, stoutish man, fond of wearing gorgeous waistcoats. He liked to visit the places he was writing about in his history, and would see a street or an old building through the eyes of his historical figures.

He never married, but no sisters ever had a more affectionate or considerate brother, nor nephews and nieces a kinder uncle.

Although he worked twelve hours a day, he never completed his "History of England" and his health became undermined by so much toil. Death came to him on December 28, 1859—while he was reading.

Arab boy and his talking camel

Readers who have wondered what it is like to play a part in a film will be interested in this article, sent to us by a British teacher in Libya who suddenly found himself in an unfamiliar rôle.

IN the city of Tripoli, last April, I heard that two Directors from a film company wanted to see me, and would I please call at the Grand Hotel. They had heard me on the local radio, and wondered if I would like to take a part in a picture to be made for The Children's Film Foundation.

The picture, to be called "Ali and the Camel," was about a small Arab boy who quite unwittingly helped a gang of jewel thieves. Having discovered his mistake, the boy Ali went in search of the stolen jewels, helped by a very clever talking camel. Then he was captured, but in the end, after

many thrilling adventures, he proved himself a hero.

I was asked to act as Location Manager and also to play the rôle of chief villain, a wicked professor, who does his best to "get rid" of Ali. So I set to work to read my wicked script.

At the same time young Arab boys had to be tested for the part of Ali. This was done by their acting a scene with me, and at last an eleven-year-old with a bright and shining face was picked for the part.

Scenes were filmed in the harbour and the camel market, on a sponge boat, in old Roman cities, and (most exciting of all) down miles of steep, winding roads for the chase of Ali by the thieves in the final scene.

For my part in the film, I had a car which I used to call the Red Monster, because it was so big and would keep breaking down. The chase was also continued



Ali and the professor on a sponge boat in Tripoli Harbour

Pen-friends await you in France

One of the best ways of improving your French is to have a pen-friend in France. Your exchange of letters may ripen into real friendship and visits to each other's homes.

Over 50,000 French boys and girls apply for British pen-friends every year, and many are still on the waiting list. If you are 13 or over, and would like to have a pen-friend in France, you should apply to the Ministry of Education, Correspondence Exchange, Curzon House, Curzon Street, London, S.W.1; or to The Educational Institute of Scotland, 46 Moray Place, Edinburgh.

by both helicopter and aeroplane.

And all this in a temperature which was often 110 degrees in the shade. Even so, we had to have four-foot-square boards covered with silver paper to reflect the sunlight on to our faces, and avoid shadows.

On one occasion Mahari the camel had to obstruct the thieves on the road when they were chasing Ali. As an obstruction Mahari was fine. But then he would not move at all. And when at last we did get him moving he ran for a mile before he would stop.

One of the thieves was sitting on the side of a small boat in between scenes, wearing an aqualung. Suddenly he overbalanced and fell overboard on to the head of the Director who was in the water at the time. From then on the Director was very careful where he swam.

I shall certainly remember "Ali and the Camel" as long as I live.



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Ask your newsagent for them NOW

TO MAKE YOUR PARTY ALL THE MERRIER

Entertaining ideas from some famous entertainers

These grand ideas for making a Christmas Party go with a swing have come to us from some well-known people in show business;

and the first two are from Lenny the Lion, who is appearing with Terry Hall in pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

INTRODUCTIONS

This is good fun, particularly if you have some guests who may not have met each other previously.

Before the guests arrive you think of well-known pairs of names, like Romeo and Juliet or Jack and Jill, and write each of the names, separately, on a card.

Distribute these cards to each guest on arrival. Then, when all are assembled, ask them to find their partners, according to the name on their card. Romeo has to find Juliet, Jack to find Jill, and so on. It provides lots of fun and certainly helps to "break the ice."

GUESS WHO

Here is a game for which you need some props, such as old suits and dresses, string, caps and hats, pillows and blankets. Then you form your guests into two teams.

The idea is for one team to go outside and elect someone to dress up. Then he is covered with whatever is to hand, using the pillows to change his shape. You can imagine what a weird-looking sight emerges. The team back in the room have to guess who is beneath the disguise. The "Thing" is not allowed to answer as this might give the game away. He just nods or shakes the head in reply to the various guesses.

GRAB THE BUN FOR GOOD FUN

Now comedian Derek Roy would like to tell you about a game which is brief but always raises a laugh.

Ask your guests to stand round in a circle, keeping a good space between them. In the middle of the circle place a bun on a plate.

Each guest will be given the name of an animal, in a whisper, and has to keep it secret.

Tell everyone you are going to call out the name

of an animal and that immediately you have done so the person who has been given that name must try to grab the bun before you have counted five.

The next moment you shout "wolf" or "elephant," or whatever it is, and everyone darts at the bun! When the ensuing mix-up sorts itself out your guests will realise that you had given every one of them the same "secret" name.



Lenny the Lion, assisted by Terry Hall, doing one of his party pieces

THE FLOATING NEEDLE

Scottish comedian Jimmy Logan continues now with another trick you may like to try on your friends.



Put a needle and a glass of water on the table and challenge everyone to float the needle on the water. When they fail, as they are bound to do, you calmly

make two long loops of cotton, then lay the needle between the loops and gently lower it until it rests on the water. Carefully lower the loops of cotton until they float free of the needle before pulling them away.

Hey presto! You will find that the needle will then stay floating on its own.

CHOOSING A CARD

Comedian Harry Secombe takes time off from rehearsals for his rôle in "Humpty Dumpty" at the London Palladium, to tell you this trick he particularly likes.



Ask one of the guests to pick a card from a full pack, hold it up in full view while your back is turned, and then replace it. The secret is for you slightly to bend the rest of the pack in your hand while he is showing the card to the other guests.

The result is that the chosen card stands out from the shuffled pack as the only perfectly flat one and you can at once pull it out and show it.

Yes, it's easy when you know how...

DRAWING BY EAR

From funny man Stan Stennett, the "Cardiff Crackpot," come these two challenges to those of you who can draw.

For this bit of fun the guests sit in pairs, back to back. One of the pair is given a common household object, not too difficult to draw, and the other has pencil and paper.

The artist has to draw the object he has not seen from the verbal description given by his partner. The artists sign the finished drawings so that they can be exhibited alongside the objects described.



MIRROR DRAWING

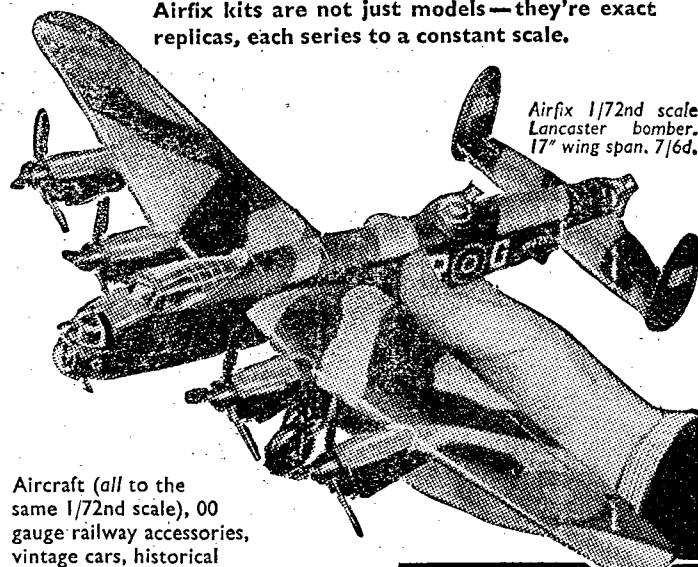
The players must take it in turns to sit at a table, facing a mirror and with a piece of paper in front of them. With their free hand they have to hold a sheet of cardboard to prevent any direct view of the paper.

The idea is to draw one of a chosen list of objects while looking in the mirror. It sounds so easy, but you will find the results quite amazing.

It is a nice thought to have a small prize for the best effort.

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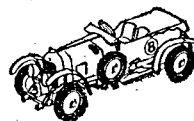
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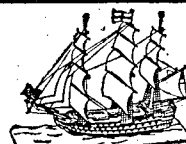
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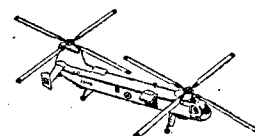
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OTHER THINGS TO SEE

are an exhibition of Chinese Scroll Paintings (with perhaps a demonstration by the artist), a collection of pictures, scrapbooks and models made by children during Commonwealth classroom studies and, of course, the Institute's Exhibition Galleries which show how people live, work, and play in all the countries of the Commonwealth.

SPEND A DAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

Raising the reindeer in Scotland



IF the robin is the Christmas bird, the reindeer is undoubtedly the Christmas animal. Santa Claus in his sledge is responsible for that.

The reason why the reindeer is so useful a means of transport at this time of year is that its feet are large and splayed out so that it can run over deep snow without sinking in.

Another useful adaptation to a snowy time of year is the large prong ("tine" is the technical word) on its antlers, which it can use to shovel away the snow and so reach the mosses and lichens on which it feeds. When reindeer were first brought to the London Zoo, the authorities went to great trouble to get special moss from Iceland for them. In the meantime, however, the reindeer took to eating English clover, and when the moss at last arrived they would not look at it.

Though the name of the reindeer is so appropriate for an animal that has been domesticated and harnessed as a beast of burden

since very remote times, it actually derives from an old Norse word meaning just "deer." To this day the Lapps of northern Norway, Sweden, and Finland still use the reindeer as a source of supply of food and clothing, following the migratory herds as they roam over the bleak tundra.

The caribou of North America, of which vast herds still roam over the plains of Arctic Canada, are almost identical with the reindeer of northern Europe and Asia.

Many people do not realise that the reindeer was once a native British beast. In prehistoric times it was wide-spread in the forests of northern Scotland, and as late as the middle of the 12th century the earls of Orkney used to go hunting for reindeer in the woods of Caithness.

Evidently the Scottish huntsmen exterminated the reindeer, for we hear no more of them in Scotland till the 18th century, when the Duke of Atholl unsuccessfully turned out 14 of them on his estate

in Perthshire. Three more such experiments, in Orkney, Aberdeenshire, and Northumberland, failed during the next 40 or 50 years.

Not until 1952 was a serious attempt made, by the Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom, to acclimatise the reindeer in Scotland once more. Reindeer have been brought over from Swedish Lapland by Mr. Mikel Utsi, who owns large herds in that country, and turned out in an area in the Spey valley in Inverness-shire.

There are now about two dozen reindeer in the reserve, which consists of 5000 acres of high ground above Loch Morlich. Fifteen reindeer calves have now been born in Scotland.

The herdsman in charge, Mr. Edwin Wakeling, gave up a job in a nursery in Kent for the life of looking after a herd of reindeer on the higher slopes of a Scottish mountain. He spends the summer in a tent-like shelter very similar to the ones used by the Lapps.

RICHARD FITTER

ON RECORD

New discs to note

FRANKIE VAUGHAN: *Frank In Films* on Philips BBE12317. Fortunately, Frankie Vaughan's non-stop film-making has not kept him away from records. In fact his films have provided him with several excellent songs, and four of the best are here. "These Dangerous Years," "Wonderful Things," "The Lady Is A Square" and "The Heart Of A Man" are sung with Frankie's customary vitality and sincerity. (EP. 12s. 3d.)

PAUL ROBESON: *At Carnegie Hall*, with Alan Booth, piano, on Rank 35/018. Naturally the larger part of Robeson's programme on the record consists of Negro spirituals, but besides being a fine singer he is also a very good actor, and you will find an extract from the part he played in *Othello*, at Stratford-upon-Avon, here, too. (LP. 35s.)

MICHAEL FLANDERS: *The Christmas Story* on Parlophone GEP8779. Fortunately there is just time to add this charming recording to your collection of Christmas music. As the warm rich voice



of Michael Flanders tells the story of that first Christmas the Michael Sammes Singers perform a well-chosen selection of carols, among them *The Rocking Carol*. (EP. 12s. 3d.)

MITZI GAYNOR: *Happy Anniversary* on Top Rank JAR258. This talented young American is



well known as a dancer and singer. "Happy Anniversary" is her latest picture, and this is the theme song. (45. 6s. 4d.)

HARRY BELAFONTE: *Scarlet Ribbons* on RCA RCX1049. *Shenandoah*, *Suzanne*, *Matilda Matilda*, complete the foursome on this excellent extended play. *Scarlet Ribbons* is particularly worth noting, because this Belafonte version has not been available for some time. (EP. 12s. 3½d.)

TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD: *Love Is The Only Thing* on Capitol CL15100. Mr. Ford sings a song on the lines that there is a little bit of good in the worst of people. He expresses these worthy ideas in a catchy, finger-clicking rhythm which makes this great fun. (45. 6s.)

SNOW WHITE on Rank JKP2029. Four enchanting songs from the original soundtrack of the ever-popular Walt Disney film. *I'm Wishing*, *One Song*, *Whistle While You Work*, and *Heigh Ho*, all are melodies which gain in charm the more one hears them. (EP. 12s. 3d.)

Strange to Relate

LITTLE JACK HORNER SAT IN A CORNER EATING A CHRISTMAS PIE. HE PUT IN HIS THUMB AND PULLED OUT A PLUM AND SAID WHAT A GOOD BOY AM I.

THERE WAS A CERTAIN THOMAS HORNER WHO WAS STEWARD TO RICHARD WHITING THE ABBOT OF GLASTONBURY. TO PLEASE THE KING THE ABBOT SENT HIM A FINE PIE FOR CHRISTMAS. THOMAS HORNER WAS TO CARRY IT TO HENRY.

THE PIE CONTAINED TITLE DEEDS TO TWELVE MANORS. ON THE WAY HORNER IS SAID TO HAVE OPENED THE PIE AND PULLED OUT A 'PLUM'—THE DEED TO MELS MANOR IN SOMERSET. WHETHER THE STORY IS TRUE OR NOT IT IS CERTAIN THAT HORNER WENT TO LIVE AT MELS MANOR AND IT BECAME THE FAMILY HOME OF THE HORNERS FROM THAT TIME. LATER THOMAS HORNER SERVED ON THE KING'S JURY WHICH CONDEMNED THE...

...ABBOT, HIS OLD MASTER. HOWEVER HE GOT THE MANOR, THOMAS'S SERVICES TO HENRY WERE NOT UNREWARDED AND HIS NEIGHBOURS HAD THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT HORNER'S FORTUNE, ACCORDING TO THE RHYMES LONG REPEATED IN SOMERSET. HORNER'S CHRISTIAN NAME MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO JACK BY THESE FOLK BECAUSE, IN OLDEN DAYS, A KNAVE WAS OFTEN CALLED A JACK.

THE STORY GOES THAT DURING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES BY HENRY VIII...



The CONWAYS TAKE THEIR CUE

by GEOFFREY MORGAN

The missing dummy figure, a "prop" of the film company, has been found, and now the eccentric Mr. Danver has disappeared. These startling developments occur while the Conways are helping the film unit shoot scenes aboard the Mirelda. Later, the cousins follow Mr. Danver's dog to a shaft of the Delgarth mine. Greve, a man employed by the owner of the mine, tries to shoot the dog, but the Conways scare the animal away, and when the man has also gone, they climb down the shaft. In a rock chamber off the main gallery they find a man bound hand and foot. It is Mr. Danver!

15. Trapped!

IT was nearly a minute before Jerry had recovered sufficiently from the shock to find his voice, and then he could do no more than gasp the name: "Mr. Danver!"

The old man blinked in the light from Jerry's lamp, trying to recognise his two visitors.

"Who are you?" he muttered. "How did you find me?"

"Our name's Conway," Jerry said. "Don't you remember us? We were in the shooting-brake with film director Hugh Wilson when your dog ran out on the track."

"It was your dog that led us here," Jane spoke shakily.

"Good for you," Mr. Danver said, his voice more confident. "Now you can get these cords off and we can get out of this hole." He sat up slowly. "I'll see that justice is done."

Faked train journey

"But what happened? How did you get here—like this?" Jerry took a penknife from his pocket and began to saw through the bindings. "We'd heard you'd disappeared off the London train last night."

"The London train?" muttered Danver. "I planned to go to London last night, but they forced me down here instead."

"But we saw you in the car on the way to the station," Jane exclaimed, mystified. "Fenning had stopped to change a punctured wheel. We asked if he wanted any help."

"You were sitting in the front seat reading a newspaper," Jerry added, and drew the severed cords from Danver's ankles.

"I was down here," he insisted. "They pulled a trick somehow." He rubbed his wrists as the ropes fell away.

"Who are they?" Jerry shot at him.

"That blackguard Fenning—my chauffeur—is one of them,"

he muttered bitterly. "Greve is the other. They're both in the pay of that crook Cramer. How they tricked you into believing I vanished off the London train, I don't know."

But Jerry knew now. He remembered looking through the rear window of the car, and now he had suddenly realised that the whole time they had been with Fenning, the passenger on the front seat had never moved. He had appeared to sit bolt upright reading a paper. What did that remind him of now? A display dummy in a shop window!



Jane's flashing bicycle lamp revealed a scene of falling rocks and choking dust as the gallery roof crashed down

"The film company's dummy, Jane!" Jerry turned to her. "That's how it was done. That's why the dummy was stolen off the Mirelda—"

"Listen!" demanded Jane abruptly. "Someone's coming!"

The three of them moved to the opening and stood rigid, peering into the gallery. The footsteps were now unmistakable. Someone was approaching down the gallery.

"It's Greve!" whispered Danver hoarsely. "He comes to check on me regularly, brings food or water. He's been my keeper."

Jerry could see Greve's powerful torch and he knew they were too late to reach the escape route.

Escape into danger

"He's coming here," he whispered. "We can't risk running for the shaft we came down."

"Let's get out of this trap," Jane muttered, trembling.

"There must be other exits in this infernal place," grated Danver, and stepped out into the gallery. In his haste he stubbed his toe against one of the old tramlines and fell with a bump against the opposite wall, and the vibration let loose a cascade of stones from a narrow funnel

near the roof. They dropped on to the metal track echoing along the gallery like alarm bells.

The approaching light immediately steadied, the beam aimed straight, the footsteps halted.

"Who's there?" Greve's rough voice bellowed down to them.

Neither the Conways nor Mr. Danver spoke. Jerry and Jane silently helped their companion to his feet and, slowly, noiselessly feeling their way along the wall, they moved deeper into the mine.

Greve shouted again, and then the light lunged forward and

props, and the rubble behind them slithered forward. At the same time, there was a peal like a roll of thunder in the main gallery and part of the roof crashed down, filling the air with stones and choking dust. They thought they heard a distant cry, and then there was silence.

Jerry switched on his lamp and the three fugitives stepped out of their shelter. It was difficult to recognise the gallery. As well as the roof, part of the side wall had caved in, filling the tunnel completely, separating them from Greve and cutting off the way out.

Another way out

"He's the other side—somewhere," faltered Jane.

"I thought I heard him shout when the place collapsed," Jerry said.

"Wherever he is he won't do us harm now, but that doesn't improve our position much," Danver said, keeping his voice calm.

Jerry shone the light over the fall.

"We'll never get through that," Danver went on. "We don't know how far it's blocked the other way. I knew Cramer was crazy to open the mine again, and that fool should have known better than to set off an explosion." He stared round. "We've got to find another way out."

Jerry suddenly remembered Dod Neilson's story of the accident years before, and how one man had escaped to the Chimney.

"Could we find the tunnel to the Devil's Chimney?" He put his thoughts into words.

Sound of the sea

"There is such a tunnel," Danver declared. "We'd better begin looking for it before the air is completely fouled."

With the two lamps lighting the way, they set off deeper into the mine.

Jerry was the first to hear the dull thudding of the sea. After what seemed an interminable time they had found the entrance to the tunnel, opening up from a bay in the gallery, and slowly Jerry had led the way into it.

Progress was slow. The tunnel dipped, levelled out and dipped

again, its roof rising and its sides creeping inward. Soon there was a dull, moving sound above, and they realised they were under the sea between the Chimney and the cliff. A little farther and the light revealed the gentle slope upward and then they were on dry rock.

The roof suddenly disappeared and their feet grazed the bottom of a flight of rough steps. They formed a circular stairway up the walls of the Chimney to the square of daylight at the top. Jerry kept the lead. He ascended backwards, his hands lightly supporting Danver beneath the armpits, helping the man to climb. By the time the trio reached the top, the evening sun had gone and twilight was creeping across the sky.

JENNINGS IS COMING

A new serial by Anthony Buckeridge will begin on this page shortly

"You're looking better now, Mr. Danver," Jane said cheerily, and glanced over the flat-topped wall to the long Atlantic swell some forty feet below. "But where do we go from here?"

"Listen!" Jerry was staring towards the headland.

"What is it?" Jane rushed to his side.

"A boat. A motor-boat—beyond the headland—just out there!"

"Jerry!" she shrieked with excitement. "Lydstone Head—the lobster pond—It's Dod's boat. He's come to his pots!"

Jerry nodded, clenching his teeth, his expression grim and determined. It was still light enough for them to see and be seen if the boat came into view; but he knew it would not. Dod would haul up his catch and go back to Trevack again. He began to peel off his jacket.

"I'll have to swim for it," he muttered grimly.

"Jerry!" She grabbed his arm. "Don't go—you'll never make it."

"I'll dive—remember what Dod said—there's deep water this side." He climbed calmly on to the wall. "Keep a look-out, Jane," he said.

To be concluded



A little help with the pudding

Stirring the Christmas pudding is a job for which there are always plenty of volunteers. These young assistant cooks at Dr Barnardo's Home at Beckenham, Kent, obviously enjoyed doing it

GHANA ROYAL VISIT PKT. FREE



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WORLD OF STAMPS

EVER-POPULAR CAPE TRIANGULARS

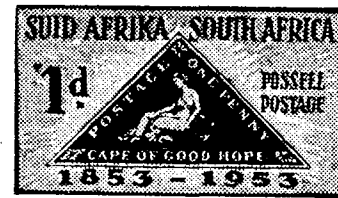
A COLLECTION of Cape of Good Hope triangular stamps belonging to a Surrey collector has just been sold by Harmer's, the London auctioneers, for £15,000. This sum reflects the popularity of these strange-looking stamps, which are known even to people who are not collectors.

Nobody knows for certain why the triangular shape was chosen for the first stamps of Cape Colony, issued in 1853. The most likely explanation is that some of the native sorters employed at that time in the Post Office could neither read nor write. Part of their duties was to separate letters arriving from overseas, on which extra postage sometimes had to be paid, from letters posted in Cape Colony itself.

The easiest way for the illiterate sorters to do this was to look at the stamps on the letters. Those coming from overseas were ordinary rectangular stamps, while letters posted in Cape Colony bore triangular stamps.

This primitive system was soon changed, perhaps by teaching the illiterate sorters to read! When new stamps were issued in the Cape of Good Hope in 1864, they were rectangular like those of other countries.

The old triangular stamps have always been popular with collectors. The cheapest variety



now costs about £5 if in first-class condition, though torn or heavily postmarked specimens may be obtained for less.

The triangular design was used again in 1926 for fourpenny stamps issued in South Africa. Grey-blue in colour, these now cost about three shillings each.

Still cheaper are the two South African stamps issued in 1953 to mark the centenary of the first Cape triangulars. They cost about a shilling for the pair in mint condition, and used specimens may be obtained for a few pence. Having the same design as the original Cape triangulars which are so expensive, they make an excellent substitute.

COLLECTORS of stamps showing flowers will like the new Swiss charity series. Four of the five stamps in it depict flowers in



natural colours, including the marsh marigold and field poppy. Switzerland usually pays tribute to one of her famous men in the winter charity series. This year it is the turn of Karl Hilty, whose portrait appears on the lowest value. He was a Professor of Law and the author of several history books.

THROWING the hammer and fencing are the sporting events chosen for illustrations on



two new Japanese stamps. These have been issued to mark the 14th National Athletics Meeting, held this winter in Tokyo.

C. W. HILL

Missing piece on the chess board

If you play chess you will be interested in this short story which ends with a simple puzzle.

"Oh, Johnson, I want a word with you, please."

The speaker was Mr. James, master in charge of chess at Ravenbourne School, and he was selecting a team to play in the following week's match against their traditional rivals, Eardcombe Grange School.

"I have decided upon the first nine places in the team," he went on, "and want you and Miller to play off for the tenth board."

Johnson went in search of Dusty Miller, and a few minutes later the battle was joined.

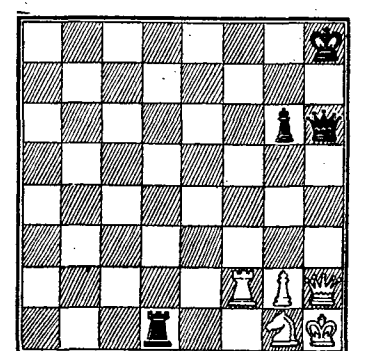
Miller won the toss for the white pieces and proceeded to try to checkmate Johnson in about four moves. Five minutes later, however, Miller's own Queen was in danger and it was not long before Johnson, with a face lit up like the Blackpool illuminations, cried out "MATE!"

Eager to show Mr. James the final position, Johnson picked up

the board and made his way unsteadily towards the Staff Room, only to find on arrival that something was wrong.

"I see what has happened," said Mr. James, "the piece giving checkmate has fallen from the board. You had better run along the corridor and find it."

Here is the position which Mr. James saw:



Can you see what piece was missing, and from what square it had fallen?

Answer next week

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BE SURE

to mention "CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER" when replying to advertisements.

Buffalo-Hunting Again

Millions of bison (or buffalo) once roamed North America. Some lived in the mountains of the West and the forests of the East, but the chief bison country was the Great Plains.

Indians killed many of the big animals for food and hides, but enough were born every year to keep the herds from getting smaller. It was the white man who almost wiped out the buffalo, and at last the governments of the United States and Canada decided to stop the shooting, thus saving the last few hundred.

Since then the bison have increased in numbers. There are about 16,000 of them in Canada alone and recently men have been allowed to hunt them again, for the first time for 63 years. But the hunting is strictly controlled. Only a few will be shot each year, to make sure that the grazing areas do not become overcrowded.

BRITISH SCHOOL FOR ITALY

A modern British primary school will be on show in Italy next year. A small one is to be specially built in Milan for an exhibition of arts and architecture to be held there from July to November.

The school is to be designed by the Nottinghamshire County Council. It will have an assembly hall and three classrooms, fully furnished, and will be typical of the thousands of schools built in Britain since the war.

Easy to Knit!

BESTWAY and WELDONS KNITTING PATTERNS

Ask to see a selection at your newsagents, woolshop or wherever knitting patterns are sold.

Price 6d. each.

PUZZLE PARADE

THE SAME JOY

LITTLE folks in other lands
Will spend their Christmas Day
In doing such a lot of things
In such a different way!

Perhaps they have their presents
Inside a wooden shoe,
Instead of in a stocking,
As other children do!

Perhaps they don't have turkey,
Puddings, or mince pies,
Never see a snowflake
Falling from the skies!

And as for dear old Santa,
He'll have *another* name,
But it really doesn't matter—
The wonder's just the same!

For whether it's in England,
Or any other clime,
Every child is full of joy
When it comes to Christmas-time!

A thought for Christmas

THE carols and the Christmas tree,
The pudding and the cake;
The presents and the Santa Claus,
The noise the crackers make.
All these, and many things besides,
Make our dreams come true;
But please remember, children,
That it's Jesus's birthday, too.
So when you climb upstairs to bed
After a lovely day,
Say "Thank you, Jesus, very
much";
That's all you need to say.

FIND THE TREES

The answer to each of the
following clues will suggest the
name of a familiar tree.

CINDER; aircraft; inlet; crate;
animal's coat.

The Stable Boy

I KNEW the Christ child's coming,
I, too, saw the star.
'Twas I who showed the Wise Men,
Travelling from afar.
Where the Holy Mother
Lay in a lowly shed,
'Twas I who found the straw
To make her humble bed.
And when I had no gift for Him,
My small heart-prayer was heard,
For in a bush, close at my hand,
I saw a singing bird.
So I offered what I had
This sweet-tongued bird to keep,
Who sang the Babe's first lullaby,
And crowned His brow with sleep.

NAME IN FIGURES

217	5769
726	7884
595	2618

Complete the little addition sums
above. When you have done so,
change the figures in the answers
into letters according to the follow-
ing code:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	D	E	G	L	N	R	X	Y

If your answers are correct, the
figures will give the letters forming
the name of a Princess whose
birthday is on Christmas Day.

Dressing up

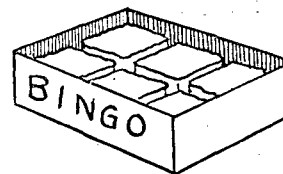
THERE'S holly in the picture
frames,
A lantern in the hall.
And rainbow-coloured paper chains
Festooning every wall.
The silver-mantled Christmas tree
Shines out upon the snow.
And rooms are hung with gay
balloons
And pearly mistletoe.
Our house looks really beautiful
In all its bright array—
We've given it a party dress
To wear on Christmas Day!

TONGUE-TWISTER

SEVEN Severn salmon swallowing
shrimps.

A PRESENT FOR YOUR DOG

WHY not have a
gift box for
your dog, one of
your most faithful
friends? Get a
matchbox and in the tray put, say,
some pieces of lump sugar. Push
the tray back into its cover, wrap
in decorative paper, and glue down
the edges. Then tie it with ribbon
and hang the gift on the tree.



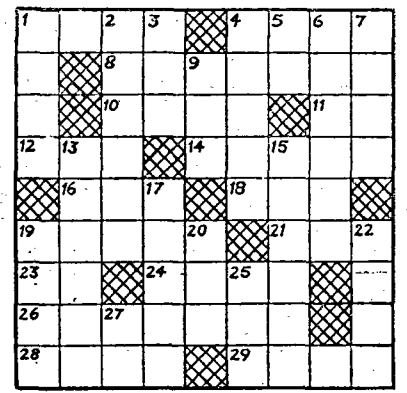
CAROL WORD PUZZLE

In each of these eight sentences
there is a word which comes in the
first line of a familiar carol. Can
you name the eight carols?

MANY kings have reigned.
The wall had ivy on it.
He was very merry.
They watched carefully.
She made it very clear.
He was a faithful friend.
The ships were in the bay.

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Water
plant. 4 Go by. 8 Distinguished.
10 You can ski on it. 11 Early
English. 12 Yourself. 14 Go in.
16 Professional. 18 Sip. 19
Considers. 21 National Skating
Association. 23 During. 24
Image or statue. 26 Unsettled.
28 Greek god of love. 29 Alack!
READING DOWN. 1 Depend.
2 Make certain. 3 Tutor of a
college. 4 Chess men. 5 Able-
Bodied Seaman. 6 Slumbers.
7 Prophet. 9 On the foot.
13 Batsman who goes in first.
15 Underground passage. 17
Leaves out. 19 Dreadful. 20
Used on snow. 22 Mountains.
25 Eggs. 27 Thus. Answer next week



MISS PARKER'S PARTY FROCK

THREE mornings before Christmas
Anne and Christopher were
making paper chains. They had
their packets of gay paper strips,
and on the kitchen table spread
with newspaper was a basin of
starch paste.

Mr. Portly and Miss Parker
dozed on the rug, but now and
then Miss Parker came and
pounced on the rustling chains.

Presently Mummie called from
the dining-room: "Anne! Come
and try on your new party frock.
I want to sew on the fasteners."

"Then I will bike to the Post
Office with Grannie's parcel," said
Christopher as Anne took Miss
Parker off into the dining-room.

The party frock was lovely;
holly-berry red, with a wide,
swinging skirt. It was while they
were busy fixing the poppers that
Miss Parker wandered back into
the kitchen.

"I wonder if that stuff in the
bowl is good to drink," she
thought, and promptly crouched
to jump on to the table.

"Hi," cried Mr. Portly. "You're
not allowed up there!"

"Pooh!" she replied. And up
she leapt. But the newspaper
covering slid under her feet.

To Santa Claus

DEAR Santa Claus, I've made a
list

Of all the toys I hope you'll bring.
It's quite a long one, I'm afraid—
Maybe I can't have everything.
So just do what you think is best—
Remember all the others, too,
And I'll be thankful any way.
I leave it, Santa dear, to you.

Down she came with it, loose
chain papers, bowl, and all.

And, in falling, the paste upset
itself all over Miss Parker.

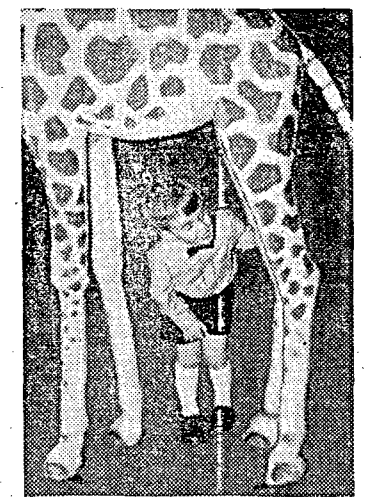
"Miaow!" she shrieked, roll-
ing over and over to try to get
rid of the sticky mess. But the
more she rolled the more chain
papers stuck to her, till she was
almost covered.

At that moment Anne returned.
Laughing heartily, she carried
the paper-covered cat to Mummie.
"Look! Miss Parker has a new
party frock, too!" she cried.

But it took lots of warm water,
instead of just un-popping
fasteners, to get Miss Parker out
of her party frock.

JANE THORNICROFT

COME AND FIND ME



A huge stuffed giraffe in a
London store makes a hiding
place for a small shopper.

Two in a trio

Two words which sound alike
but are spelled differently give the
answers to this puzzle. One of the
words is used twice in the three
answers needed.

THEY'RE often heard at Christmas-
time,

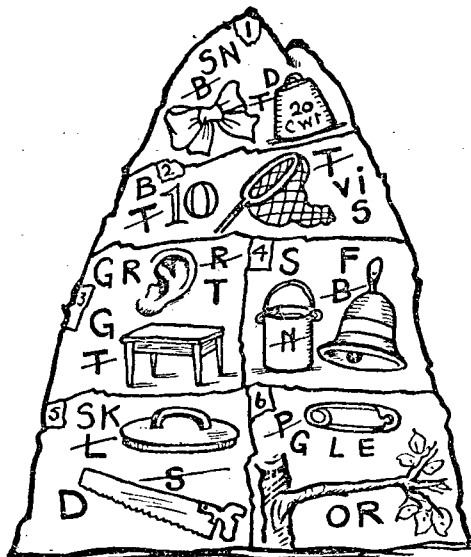
And may be seen in shops.
While many folk must suffer them,
Especially at bus stops.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Find the trees. Ash; plane; bay;
box; fir. Name the mountains.
Snowdon; Ben Nevis; Great Gable;
Scafell; Skiddaw; Ingleborough.
Name in figures. Alexandra. Carol
word puzzle. We three kings of
Orient are; The Holly and the Ivy;
God rest you merry, gentlemen;
While shepherds watched their flocks;
It came upon the midnight clear;
O come, all ye faithful; I saw three
ships come sailing in. Two in a trio.
Waits; weights; waits.

MIXED DOUBLES

1. Dane, deign. 2. Seas, seize. 3.
Corps, core. 4. Brows, browse.
5. Hall, haul. 6. Bass, base.



NAME THE MOUNTAINS

CAN you find the
names of the six
mountains given here
in picture and letter
code?

FIRESIDE GAME

HERE is a pencil-and-paper game
which can be played round
the fireside. The first player sug-
gests a word (of not more than
eight letters) connected with
Christmas, for example, *pudding*.
Players write the word on their
papers and then try to form a
sentence of seven words (also re-
lating to Christmas), the words
beginning with the letters in *pudding*.
After three minutes the
sentences are read out.

The next player then chooses a
word, and so on until all in the
group have had a turn.

The little tree

ONCE, on a windy hillside,
A little tree was born.
It looked about, and said, "I'll be
The tallest of them all."
It stretched itself all through the
day,
To touch the bright blue sky;
And through the night it tried to
reach
The twinkling stars on high.
Then in the cold of wintertime
The children came that way
To seek a little Christmas tree.
Then upon Christmas Day,
Bedecked with toys and tinsel,
And candles all aglow,
The little tree said happily,
"I've reached the stars, I know."

MIXED DOUBLES

IN each of the following pairs of numbered sentences, the
blanks represent two words which sound alike but are spelled
differently. Can you write them all correctly?

Answers are given in column 5

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Great — is a very
large dog.
He did not — to answer
my letter. | 4. I knitted my — in per-
plexity.
Cattle — quietly under the
trees. |
| 2. The ship sailed far out on
the high —.
I was determined to — my
opportunity. | 5. A civic ceremony took place
in the town —.
It was time for the fishermen
to — in their nets. |
| 3. She is a dancer in the —
de ballet.
The apple was rotten to the
—. | 6. He sang the part of the
villain in a deep — voice.
Do not — your conclusions
upon inaccurate knowledge. |

Young Olympians at Olympia

SPORT plays a prominent part in this year's Schoolboys' Own Exhibition at London's Olympia, from December 28 to January 9. For instance there is a new feature called "Are you an Olympian?" designed to find the best young all-rounders.

Boys can choose 4 of 16 sports in which to compete. Those entering the soccer test will have to dribble a ball between skittles; cricketers will be tried out at the nets; and tennis players will serve against a wall. Runners will be electronically timed on a 75-yard sprint, and rowing enthusiasts will show their powers on a rowing machine.

Among other sports to choose

from will be cycling, shooting, table tennis, badminton, boxing, and basketball. Leading players of each sport will be on hand to give advice, and successful competitors will win certificates.

Budding racing motorists are not forgotten. By passing a simple test they will win a ticket to drive a Trokart, and there will be miniature car racing.

Taking part yourself is also the attraction at many of the Exhibition's other features. There is, for example, the Parachute Jump at which visitors will be able to make an actual 40-foot drop; and at the "Food Temptation" stand famous chefs will show how to make food really tempting.

SCHOOLBOY'S PRIZE PICTURE



This fine action picture was taken by fourteen-year-old Alan Stonier of Lumley Secondary School, Skegness. Alan returned to school after an illness to find that it had won the junior trophy in the Photographic Information Council's National Challenge competition for school camera clubs.

Rugby League's No. 1 kicker

IT has been decided that Rugby League goalposts should be padded to prevent some of the frequent injuries to players crashing into the posts. Corner posts are also to be "non-rigid."

One man who does not seem to mind whether the posts are padded or not is Bernard Ganley, skipper and full-back of the

Oldham club. For the third year in succession he has become the first player to kick 100 goals before Christmas.

In the 1957-58 season Bernard Ganley created an all-time record when he scored 224 goals. Last season he totalled more than 150 goals. No wonder he is known as Rugby League's No. 1 goal-kicker.

Sporting Flashbacks

GIRLS COMPETED IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1908 (LONDON), WHEN ARCHERY, LAWN TENNIS AND SKATING WERE INCLUDED...

SECOND TO MISS NEWELL, THE ARCHERY GOLD MEDALLIST, WAS MISS LOTTIE DOD, WHOSE ALL-ROUND ABILITY IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAD WON HER FIVE WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, INTERNATIONAL HONOURS AT HOCKEY AND THE LADIES' GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.



CAPTAIN OF BRISTOL CITY F.C. WHEN THEY PLAYED IN THE FIRST DIVISION (1906-1911) WAS THEIR CENTRE HALF, **BILLY WEDLOCK**...

ALTHOUGH BILLY WAS ONLY 5 FT. 5 INS. IN HEIGHT, HE WAS ALSO THE REGULAR CENTRE HALF FOR ENGLAND FROM 1907 TO 1912.



JOHN REYNOLDS PLAYED FOR WEST BROMWICH ALBION WHEN THEY BEAT ASTON VILLA IN THE F.A. CUP FINAL OF 1892 — AND FOR ASTON VILLA WHEN THEY BEAT WEST BROMWICH ALBION IN 1895.



Football boots with silver eyelets

ONE of the Midlands' oldest firms of football boot manufacturers have closed their factory because they could not keep pace with changing fashion.

Until three or four years ago, it seems, football boots followed a sound basic design, varying only in weight and size. "Now," said one of the firm's directors, "the latest creation is likely to be in black and tan with silver eyelets. In a couple of months it could be out of date and replaced by something else."

"When it comes to kicking a ball," he added, "there isn't a ha'p'orth of difference between any of them."

GOLFING TIE

THE other day we came across the story of a man who controls 1400 shops yet has to make a purchase from Messrs. Thresher and Glenney, the well-known outfitters in London.

The reason is that this firm is the only one which sells the Oneholer, the tie which only golfers who have done a hole in one are allowed to wear. Introduced four years ago, the Oneholer has been claimed by golfers all over the world, and for each one the firm has a signed claim certificate.

In July this year an eight-year-old boy did a hole in one—and bought the tie.

Special springboard for champion

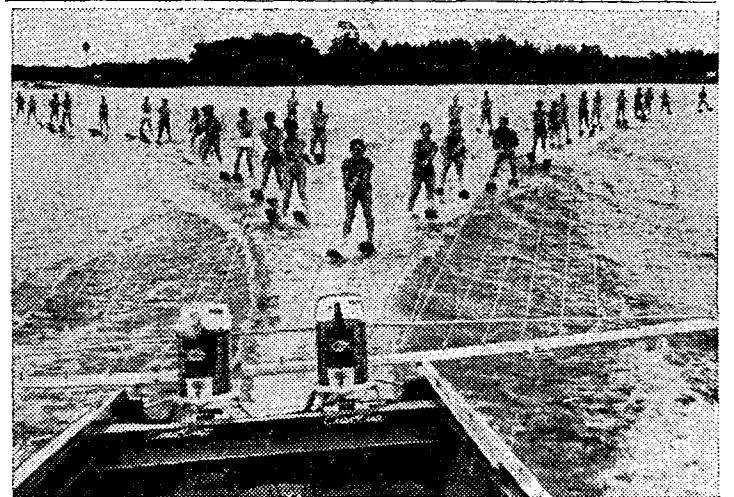
FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Marian Watson, British junior and senior diving champion, is one of Britain's chief hopes for a medal in next year's Olympics. But until recently she had to travel from Bournemouth to London every time she wanted to practise on an Olympic-type board.

Now the Amateur Swimming Association have installed a

special diving board in the Bournemouth pool for Marian's exclusive use.

It should certainly increase Marian's chance at Rome, for she will be able to train every night.

An Olympic board is much more flexible than the ordinary type, and could be dangerous to inexperienced divers, so no one else will be allowed to use it.



Wall soccer tips

A NEW series of wall charts has been issued for young soccer players.

In large clear diagrams, the charts cover ball control, kicking, heading, dribbling, and goalkeeping. The set costs six shillings, from Educational Productions Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

One big pull

At Tampa, Florida, a single boat with two outboard engines towed no fewer than 31 members of a water-ski club.

SPORTS QUIZ

- Which two non-League clubs are still in the F.A. Cup Competition?
- Can you name seven winners of the men's singles at Wimbledon who have become professionals since the war?
- Who is the world's youngest Test cricketer?
- What is the weight of the hammer used in athletics?
- How many red balls are there in snooker?
- Northern Ireland will not be taking part in the 1962 World Soccer Cup. Why?

1. Bath City and Peterborough United. 2. Peter, Kramer, Sedgman, Hoad, Trabert, Cooper, Olinick. 3. Mushahid Mohammed, who was 14 when he played for Pakistan earlier this year. 4. Sixteen pounds. 5. Fifteen. 6. Because matches are played on a Sunday.

